

COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

February, 1998

Volume 7, Number 2

Medicare Changes Including Mammogram Coverage in Effect as of January 1, 1998

The new law signed by President Clinton on August 5, 1997, as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, provides Medicare coverage for annual screening mammograms for all Medicare eligible women age 40 and over, and waives the Part B deductible for screening mammography. This coverage is effective as of January 1, 1998.

Prior law provided coverage of annual screening mammograms for disabled women age 50 to 64 and for disabled women age 40 to 49 who are at high risk for breast cancer. Screening mammograms for women over 64 and for women at normal risk were covered only biannually.

This change makes coverage consistent with the frequency

recommendations of most major breast cancer authorities, including the American Cancer Society.

Under the new law, the deductible for screening mammograms is waived. Beneficiaries must still pay the 20 percent coinsurance for screening mammograms and must

pay both the unmet deductible and 20 percent coinsurance for diagnostic mammograms.

Beginning September 1, 1998, women eligible for Medicare will no longer be eligible for Breast and

[Medicare cont. on page 4](#)

The SUM Form: An Important Tool

The SUM form is a prime tool for your agency to be paid on-time and correctly through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP). The SUM form must be submitted monthly with your voucher as this serves as back-up for the voucher. The SUM form contains CD numbers of the clients served, the procedure or CPT code, the date the service was performed, the billing amount and the funding source for the procedure.

The SUM form links billing with the patient database. BCCCP routinely spot checks SUM forms with submitted CD forms. If errors are found on SUM

forms or on client CD forms in previous billing cycles, vouchers will be reduced.

If errors are found in billing, you will be sent a copy of the pages of the SUM form that were incorrect as well as a copy of the CD forms that correspond with the SUM form. You also will receive a note explaining why your voucher is being reduced. Copies of CD forms are not returned for duplicate billings, billings billed in the wrong contract year or prior billings.

If you have any questions regarding billing or SUM forms, contact Kathy Kokel, Contract Specialist at (800) 452-1955.



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BCCCP Briefs

Training

The BCCCP State Conference will be held in San Antonio March 5-6 at the San Antonio Airport Hilton. Register now! Call Lurah Oliver at (800) 452-1955 if you have not received a registration form and you would like to attend the conference.

There are some remaining slots available for the M.D. Anderson training in June and July. Contact Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant at (800) 452-1955 for more information.

Internet Resources

Information about the new Medicare mammography coverage is available at the Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA) website at: <http://www.hcfa.gov>

The Texas Cancer Council's website address is: <http://tcdc.mdacc.tmc.edu>

View the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez Robert Reeves
Nora Ogea Lisa West
Lurah Oliver

Professional Education, Clinical Services, Case Management:

Karen Knox Karen McAnarney

Public Information and Outreach:

Stephen Wright Andrea Littlefield

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email: mmendez (or other staff first initial and last name)@chronic.tdh.state.tx.us

Website Address

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>

Local Changes

Please call or write Lisa West, Administrative Technician, with **ANY** changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers. *Thank you.*

BCCCP Website Is Now Operational

You can now access the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program's (BCCCP) website on your computer! The website is located at: <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>.

The site includes general information about the BCCCP, income eligibility, a glossary of terms and provider locations. The page also includes links to other cancer and healthcare sites.

If you have additional information or other links that would be beneficial to add to the website, please contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

MQSA Will Be Final in 1999

The Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) will become final on April 28, 1999. The rules will ensure that medical facilities, health providers and detection equipment are all held to the highest possible standards.

Areas of the final regulations that are particularly noteworthy to facilities include: a) requirements for accreditation bodies of mammography facilities, 2) general facilities requirements, 3) personnel requirement and 4) quality standards for mammography equipment and quality assurance.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) will provide facilities with a copy of the Federal Register notice and related guidebook that outlines changes from the interim regulations.

We will be summarizing and highlighting key points in upcoming issues of *Commitment*. If you have any questions, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

Cancer Care Offers Teleconference

Cancer Care, Inc. will present a five-part Teleconference Seminar Series titled "Help for People Living with Cancer." There is no charge for participation in the teleconference.

The dates of the teleconference are: February 25 - Relaxation Techniques and Visualization Exercises to Cope with the Stress of Cancer, March 25 - The Challenge of Cancer in the Workplace: How to Communicate with Your Employer, April 29 - Support for Family Caregivers: Coping Strategies, and June 24 - Managed Care What You Need to Know.

The conference is scheduled for 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (CST). For more information, call the Cancer Care Counseling Line at (800) 813-HOPE or Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

Ask The Expert

Don't forget, **you** can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.

Q *A client has Medicare. The client can afford the co-pay for a mammogram, but also needs a Pap test. The \$150 deductible doesn't apply to mammograms, but does apply to Paps. The client could not afford the deductible on the Pap. How can a provider bill for this client?*

A The provider can bill the Pap test to BCCCP as long as the client meets other eligibility requirements. If the client is on Medicare and can afford the co-pays and/or deductibles, she should be seen under Medicare. If she can't afford the co-pay or deductible, she can be seen under BCCCP.

NOTE: As of September 1, 1998, no woman with Medicare will be eligible for the BCCCP.

Please Complete Enclosed Survey

Your opinions are important to us. Although the Breast and Cervical Control Program (BCCCP) welcomes ongoing feedback on *Commitment*, we periodically ask you to complete a survey to see if this bulletin is useful to you and how it might be improved.

What can we do to make this publication easier to read or to include the stories and information that are important to you? Please take the time to complete the enclosed survey and return it by March 15, 1998.

If you have any questions, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.



Funding Offered at March Meeting

Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) providers will have the opportunity to apply for funding of special projects at the State Conference in San Antonio Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6 at the San Antonio Airport Hilton.

Funding will be available for several providers who propose collaborative community or regional projects. Time will be set aside during the conference to develop ideas for funding proposals.

The conference theme is "Making Connections, Making a Difference." The conference is designed to stimulate discussion on ways to better connect with medical science, with institutions and with the people we seek to serve.

BCCCP will pay for two staff from each BCCCP provider agency to attend this conference.

For more information, contact Stephen Wright, Public Information Officer at (800) 452-1955.

Needs Assessment Form Available in Spanish

The Case Management Comprehensive Needs Assessment form is now available in Spanish. The form should be completed in conjunction with an interview, and simply handing the form to a client to complete alone should be avoided. To order forms, contact Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator at (800) 452-1955.

Revised Batch Control Form

The next monthly packet that you receive from the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program will contain a new Batch Control Report for the data submission. The revision to the form was suggested by the City of Laredo Health Department. If you have any questions regarding this form, contact June Browning, Data Entry Operator at (800) 452-1955.

Medicare from page 1

Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) services. Additional information on this change will be forthcoming from the BCCCP State office.

Health Care Finance Administration does have a Medicare Hotline number set up to provide information on Medicare coverage of mammograms. Beneficiaries can call (800) 638-6833.

For additional information on the Medicare changes, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

TCID Specimen Contracts

Each Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provider submitting specimens to the Cytopathology Laboratory of the Texas Center for Infectious Diseases (TCID) must have a contract with TCID. If you have questions, contact Kathy Allen, MPA, Director of Cytopathology at (210) 827-8357.

Important Dates

February

February 16 - President's Day
State Office Closed

March

March 3
Texas Independence Day
Skeleton Crew at State Office
March 5-6
BCCCP State Conference in San Antonio

Women Served*:

96,853

Breast Screenings:

111,101

Cervical Screenings:

85,045

Breast Cancers:

541

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:

1287

Invasive Cervical Cancer:

43

*As of January 16, 1998

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A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

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